

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 MC-02 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 /065 W

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R 202109Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1069

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6621

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PE, UR

SUBJECT: GOP PURCHASE OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT

REF: LIMA 6088

1. FOREIGN NEWS AGENCIES IN LIMA HAVE PIECED TOGETHER STORY ON RECENT VISIT OF HIGH-RANKING SOVIET OFFICIAL (LIMA 6088). HE WAS SPOTTED BY NEWSMEN AND PHOTOGRAPHERS AND ON DEPARTURE AT LIMA AIRPORT ON A TRIP TO CUZCO. THEIR FILM WAS CONFISCATED. GOP SECRETIVENESS ON THE VISIT WHETTED THE REPORTERS' DESIRE TO FERRET OUT THE FACTS. WHILE HEARING WIRE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES OUT ON OFF THE RECORD BASIS, EMBASSY HAS CONTRIBUTED NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT WOULD CONFIRM THE ALLEGED PURCHASE.

2. AP REPORTER TOLD EMBOFF JULY 19 THAT HE HAS LEARNED FROM A HIGH GOP SOURCE OF A RECENTLY CONCLUDED DEAL FOR GOP PURCHASE OF "36" SOVIET FIGHTER AIRCRAFT MODEL SU-22 (EXPORT VERSION OF SU-20, ACCORDING TO THE GOP SOURCE). ACCORDING TO THIS NEWSMAN GOP SOURCE CLAIMED THAT 12 OF THESE AIRCRAFT WILL BE DELIVERED

BEFORE THE END OF 1976. THE GOP SOURCE ALLEGEDLY RELATED THE PURCHASE TO AIR FORCE QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENT AND NOT POLITICS. HOWEVER, HE WAS NON-COMMITTAL WHETHER OR NOT THE CABINET SHAKEUP
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AND DEPARTURE OF LEFTISTS WOULD AFFECT THE PURCHASE. THE

REPORTER WONDERS WHETHER THE CONTRACT MIGHT BE REVOKED BY THE
GOP FOR POLITICAL REASONS. HE STATED THAT THE CHILEAN GOVERN-
MENT IS AWARE OF THE PERUVIAN PURCHASE AND CONSIDERS IT TO BE
A FIRM IRREVOCABLE COMMITMENT. ON JULY 19 AN ARMY SOURCE
TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE PURCHASE HAD INDEED BEEN MADE ON CONCES-
SIONARY TERMS AND WAS IN NO WAY TENTATIVE.

3. THIS STORY MAY SOON BREAK AND COULD EMBARRASS THE GOP, WHILE
IT IS IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING MAJOR BANK LOANS.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 20 JUL 1976
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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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